

**YORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE ILLINOIS BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 3, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Ryan Sloan** of **York High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year**. Sloan is the first Gatorade Illinois Baseball Player of the Year to be chosen from York High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Sloan as Illinois’ best high school baseball player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Gary Sheffield (1985-86, Hillsborough High School, Fla.), Alex Rodriguez (1992-93, Westminster Christian School, Fla.), Clayton Kershaw (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Max Clark (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Franklin Community High School, Ind.).

At the time of his selection, the 6-foot-5, 225-pound senior right-handed pitcher had led the Dukes (29-8) to the Class 4A sectional final this season. On the mound, Sloan compiled 0.18 ERA, a 0.50 WHIP and held opposing hitters to a .117 batting average through 37 games. In 39.2 innings of work, he struck out 79 and walked just four. Ranked as the nation’s No. 6 prospect in the Class of 2024 by PrepBaseballReport, he was a 2023 Perfect Game All-American Game selection and earned First Team All-State honors as a junior.

A member of his school’s economics club, Sloan has volunteered locally as a youth baseball coach. “Ryan Sloan is the best high school pitcher I’ve seen in my 34 years of coaching Illinois high school baseball,” said Paul Belo, head coach at Palatine High School. “His efforts are smooth and easy and he is one of the few high school athletes who appears so polished at such a young age. He is composed and mature well beyond his years.”

Sloan has maintained a 4.28 GPA in the classroom. He has signed a National Letter of Intent to play baseball on scholarship at Wake Forest University this fall, but is projected as an early round selection in July’s Major League Baseball First Year Player Draft.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Sloan joins recent Gatorade Illinois Baseball Players of the Year Blake Wolters (2022-23, Mahomet-Seymour High School), Owen Murphy (2021-22, Riverside Brookfield High School), Nick DeMarco (2020-21, St. Charles North High School) and Ed Howard (2019-20, Mount Carmel High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, the Gatorade Player of the Year program has provided more than \$4.9 million in grants to winners across more than 1,900 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and X(Twitter) at x.com/Gatorade.

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